

What is claimed is:

1. An antisense compound 20 to 30 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human STAT3, wherein said antisense compound comprises at least an 8 nucleobase portion of SEQ ID NOS: 246 or 262, wherein said antisense compound inhibits the expression of human STAT3.

2. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

4. The antisense compound of claim 3 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

5. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

6. The antisense compound of claim 5 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl moiety.

7. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

8. The antisense compound of claim 7 wherein modified nucleobase is a 5-methyl cytosine.

9. The antisense compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 wherein the antisense compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

13. An antisense oligonucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 246 or 262.

14. A method of inhibiting the expression of STAT3 in cancer cells comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of STAT3 is inhibited.

15. A method of inducing apoptosis in cancer cells comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of claim 1, so that apoptosis is induced.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said cancer cells are multiple myeloma cells.

17. A method of sensitizing cells to apoptosis comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that apoptosis is induced.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said apoptosis is Fas-mediated.